

I think, for example, of Crawford, Texas. It's a place where you're not going to generally get a lot of fiber optics, although I think there may be some there as a result of Laura's and my presence. Hopefully that high speed access will come as a result of—over the air as opposed to through fiber optics. And once we get over-the-air high speed access, then a lot of rural America that heretofore hasn't had access will get it. The technologies are evolving.

One of my concerns, of course, is the economic slowdown will perhaps slow down some of the progress made, as far as high speed access. And we've done something about it. I'm going to remind Congress that they need not overspend and should not overspend. It's going to affect economic growth; that all of us in Washington need to be thinking about how to grow the economy.

And I've laid out an economic growth plan, starting with tax relief. I hear there are some up here that are now second-guessing tax relief, and surely they're not advocating a tax increase, because if they are, they will find mighty resistance in the White House. Plus, that's bad economics. So for those who criticize the tax relief plan, the next step is, what do you have in mind? And if it's a tax increase, that would be bad for America.

Good to see everybody. Thank you. Fournier, we missed you in Crawford.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:47 p.m. in the Executive Office of the President Library in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to White House Webmaster Jane Cook; and President Vicente Fox of Mexico.

Message on the Observance of Labor Day, 2001

August 31, 2001

I am pleased to join my fellow Americans in observing Labor Day on September 3, 2001.

The great strength of our Nation's economy is our workforce. From teachers and entrepreneurs to factory workers and scientists, hardworking Americans serve in a wide and diverse range of professions that are vital to

protecting our health, well-being, and quality of life. By providing important goods and services and building and generating wealth, American workers help lay the foundation for our continued progress and advancement.

Falling on the first Monday in September, Labor Day serves as a time to honor and celebrate the achievements of our workforce and to reaffirm our commitment to ensuring opportunity for every American worker. Workers must have the education and training they need to succeed, and they are entitled to expect fair treatment from their employers. We owe workers the chance to build a nest egg that will help them maintain a high standard of living in their retirement years. The last barriers to full participation in the workplace for Americans with disabilities must be removed. The Office of the 21st Century Work Force at the Department of Labor and my New Freedom Initiative reflect my Administration's commitment to furthering these important goals.

As our Nation observes Labor Day this year, I salute every hardworking American for your role in helping this country to grow and thrive and for your innovation, creativity, and energy on the job. I also encourage you as you strive to keep in balance the demands of work alongside vital responsibilities to family, friends, and the community. Your efforts carry on the proud traditions of past generations of American workers and demonstrate your adaptability and enthusiasm for meeting the challenges of the 21st century.

Best wishes for a memorable observance.

George W. Bush

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

August 26

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to West Mifflin, PA, and in

the afternoon, they traveled to South Williamsport, PA. In the evening, they returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

August 27

The President announced his intention to nominate Kathleen Burton Clarke to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management at the Department of the Interior.

The President declared a major disaster in Ohio and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on July 17–18.

August 28

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Eduard Shevardnadze of Georgia to Washington for a working visit on October 5.

August 29

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to San Antonio, TX, and in the afternoon, they traveled to Waco, TX. Later, they returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford.

The President announced his appointment of the following individuals as members of the Presidential Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans: Everett Alvarez, Ross Anthony, Terry Clark, Mack Fleming, Susan Hosek, Robert Krasner, Anthony McCann, Arthur Porter, Susan Schwartz, Robert Spanogle, Robert Wallace, Harry Walters, and Josh Weston.

August 30

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Rockwell A. Schnabel to be U.S. Representative to the European Union, with the rank of Ambassador.

The President announced his intention to nominate Roy L. Austin to be Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago.

August 31

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush went to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Wisconsin and Michigan on Monday, September 3, to participate in Labor Day events.

The White House announced that the President and President Vicente Fox of Mexico will travel together to Toledo, OH, on Thursday, September 6.

The President announced that he will make a recess appointment for Peter J. Hurtgen to stay on as Member and Chairman of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) until the President's nominees to the Board are confirmed.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released August 27

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Ohio

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of Anna M. Perez as Deputy Assistant to the President and Counselor to the National Security Adviser for Communications at the National Security Council

Released August 28

Statement by the Press Secretary: Georgian President Shevardnadze to Visit Washington

Released August 31

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer